

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR, FR

SUBJECT: RUMORED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION
OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

COMCENTER: PLEASE REPEAT MOSCOW'S 9858 DATED 6/24/74.

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT

QUOTE

R 242722Z JUNE 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 215

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 9858

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ENRG, UR, FR

SUBJ: RUMORED FRANCO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION
OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

1. USUALLY WELL-INFORMED U.S. JOURNALIST WITH EXCELLENT
CONTACTS IN MOSCOW'S FRENCH COMMUNITY ADVISED EMBOFF
JUNE 25 THAT HE HAD OBTAINED REPORT TO EFFECT THAT
SOVIETS AND FRENCH COMMITTEE ON ATOMIC ENERGY (CEA)
HAD RECENTLY REACHED MAJOR-AGREEMENT ON CONSTRUCTION
OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN USSR. VALUE OF RUMORED
AGREEMENT WAS PLACED AT 30 BILLION FRENCH FRANCS. NO
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INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON LENGTH OF TIME DURING

WHICH AGREEMENT WOULD BE REALIZED. ACCORDING TO U.S. JOURNALIST, ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT WILL BE MADE AFTER CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO USSR.

U.S. JOURNALIST REPORTS THAT FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES IN MOSCOW HAVE REFUSED COMMENT ON REPORT AND HAVE INDICATED GREAT EMBARRASSMENT OVER FACT THAT IT WAS IN HANDS OF PRESS.

2. COMMENT: IF THERE ANY BASIS FOR THIS REPORT, FRENCH WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE PULLED OFF MAJOR COUP, PERHAPS PUSHING ASIDE FRG FIRM KRAFTWERKUNION WHICH HAS REPORTEDLY MADE PROPOSAL TO SOVIETS INVOLVING CONSTRUCTION OF ATOMIC POWER STATIONS IN USSR WITH RE-PAYMENT IN ELECTRIC POWER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WESTINGHOUSE, THROUGH ITS FRENCH LICENSEES AND ITS PARTIAL OWNERSHIP OF JEUMONT-SCHHIDER, HAS STRONG POSITION IN CURRENT FRENCH PROGRAM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN FRANCE, AND IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT WESTINGHOUSE COULD PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ANY FRENCH PROGRAM INVOLVING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN USSR. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY PARIS CAN PROVIDE ON THIS REPORT. STOESSEL. END QUOTE. MAW

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